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Missouri's Unemployment Edges Up But Jobs Numbers Swell Again in September

Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up a tenth of a point to 5.6 percent in September while employment increased robustly by 10,400 jobs, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development. That unemployment rate is slightly lower than the 5.7 percent rate of a year ago.

Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment in Missouri went down to 5.4 percent in September from its summer highs of 5.7 percent in August and 5.8 percent in July. The unadjusted rate was also 5.4 percent in September of 2003.

On the other hand, non-farm payroll employment grew by 10,400 to 2,718,800 jobs, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since bottoming out in July 2003, Missouri's economy has added 45,100 jobs, an increase of 1.7 percent, which is ahead of the nation's growth rate of 1.35 percent for that period.

Some of September's jobs rebound came from school employment, which returned to more normal levels after some irregular movement in the past few months. More favorable weather conditions boosted construction employment by 2,200 jobs, reaching 135,600. Professional and business services added 2,100 jobs, on balance. Employment in financial activities was up by 1,900, and other services employment increased by 1,500 jobs.

Over the past year, employment has grown by 39,100 jobs (unadjusted) or 1.5 percent. The goods-producing sectors have added 6,900 jobs, for an increase of 1.5 percent. Construction is up by 3,300, while manufacturing has grown by 4,000, mostly in the nondurable goods industries.

In the private service-providing sectors, the greatest growth has come in health care and social assistance – 11,500 jobs or 3.8 percent. Professional and business services has also done well, adding 8,800 jobs (2.9 percent growth). Most components of this group have done well, including computer systems design (up by 2,000 or 11.7 percent) and employment services and other administrative support services. Employment has increased by 3,600 jobs in food and related services, while other services employment has added 3,600 jobs.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (SEPTEMBER 2004), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JULY AND AUGUST 2004), AND YEAR AGO (SEPTEMBER 2003)

	SEP 2004	AUG 2004	JUL 2004	SEP 2003		SEP 2004	AUG 2004	JUL 2004	SEP 2003
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.8	Atchison	4.0	3.8	4.0	2.8
MISSOURI	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.4	Audrain	5.1	5.5	5.0	5.8
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.9	6.2	6.6	5.9	Barton	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.3
Franklin	5.5	5.7	8.7	5.4	Bates	7.3	8.3	7.6	7.0
Jefferson	5.5	5.7	7.4	5.0	Benton	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.4
Lincoln	5.4	5.6	6.2	5.0	Caldwell	6.9	8.1	8.8	7.5
St. Charles	3.6	3.8	4.3	3.8	Carroll	4.2	4.8	5.2	4.5
St. Louis County	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.1	Cedar	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.4
Warren	4.9	5.2	6.2	5.5	Chariton	6.9	7.6	8.2	7.2
St. Louis City	10.8	11.2	10.4	10.7	Clark	6.3	7.4	8.3	6.7
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	Cooper	4.0	4.5	4.6	3.4
Cass	5.0	5.7	5.4	5.0	Crawford	5.8	6.0	7.0	6.6
Clay	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.5	Dade	5.7	5.7	5.3	4.9
Clinton	5.2	6.4	6.6	4.9	Dallas	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.9
Jackson	7.3	7.5	7.0	7.0	Daviess	5.8	6.3	7.0	6.1
Lafayette	4.9	6.2	6.2	5.0	DeKalb	4.3	5.4	5.7	4.4
Platte	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	Dent	5.9	6.1	7.5	5.9
Ray	5.9	7.0	8.6	6.0	Douglas	6.1	5.9	5.8	9.7
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.8	Dunklin	7.2	8.3	8.3	7.6
Christian	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.3	Gasconade	5.7	6.4	9.6	5.9
Greene	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	Gentry	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.6
Webster	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.6	Grundy	4.7	5.3	4.8	5.9
JOPLIN MSA	4.5	5.0	4.8	4.9	Harrison	3.1	3.9	4.4	3.7
Jasper	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.7	Henry	6.5	6.7	6.6	7.2
Newton	4.4	5.8	5.8	5.2	Hickory	8.6	10.5	10.2	9.2
COLUMBIA MSA	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.1	Holt	3.9	4.0	5.6	4.3
Boone	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.1	Howard	4.0	4.8	4.8	3.3
ST. JOSEPH MSA	6.0	6.3	6.1	5.4	Iron	8.9	9.2	9.4	7.5
Andrew	4.2	5.1	5.2	4.9	Johnson	3.7	4.4	4.2	3.8
Buchanan	6.4	6.6	6.3	5.5	Knox	3.0	4.1	4.6	3.5
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.6	3.6	3.9	4.1	Laclede	7.3	7.5	7.5	8.5
Adair	2.4	3.5	3.6	3.9	Lewis	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.2
Schuyler	3.9	4.5	6.0	5.3	Linn	10.5	10.7	11.1	11.2
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.3	Livingston	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4
Butler	4.8	5.2	5.4	4.7	McDonald	5.3	6.6	6.4	5.5
Carter	5.8	6.3	7.6	5.3	Macon	5.0	5.6	6.5	5.2
Ripley	5.4	5.3	6.6	7.2	Madison	7.4	7.1	8.5	6.7
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.2	Mercer	3.7	5.1	4.5	4.6
Camden	4.3	4.3	3.5	4.0	Monroe	6.3	7.2	7.9	6.4
Miller	4.8	5.2	5.5	4.4	Montgomery	6.1	7.1	8.2	6.2
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.4	5.9	5.7	5.3	Morgan	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.1
Bollinger	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.1	Nodaway	1.5	2.0	2.7	1.5
Cape Girardeau	3.9	4.4	4.1	3.8	Ozark	4.3	5.4	5.3	4.6
Mississippi	7.4	8.2	7.1	7.3	Pemiscot	9.2	10.4	10.3	10.6
New Madrid	7.6	9.6	10.0	9.7	Perry	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.0
Scott	6.5	6.5	6.4	5.8	Pettis	5.3	6.2	6.1	5.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.9	3.6	3.5	3.1	Pike	5.4	5.2	5.3	4.8
Callaway	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.5	Polk	4.1	4.5	5.3	5.0
Cole	2.6	3.4	3.3	2.8	Pulaski	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.1
Moniteau	2.6	3.1	3.0	2.4	Putnam	3.5	4.5	4.5	6.1
Osage	3.3	5.1	4.8	3.8	Randolph	4.0	5.5	7.4	4.7
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.4	Reynolds	6.8	8.1	8.0	7.3
Howell	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.7	St. Clair	5.9	6.5	6.0	7.2
Oregon	3.9	4.7	4.9	4.2	Ste. Genevieve	4.9	5.3	5.8	4.8
Shannon	6.4	5.8	7.0	5.1	Saline	3.7	4.9	4.8	4.8
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.3	Scotland	2.2	3.0	3.5	2.7
Barry	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.3	Shelby	4.3	5.2	5.9	5.4
Lawrence	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.3	Stoddard	5.5	6.0	6.7	5.5
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.9	5.1	5.6	5.2	Stone	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.9
Marion	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.3	Sullivan	5.4	5.3	5.8	8.3
Ralls	5.1	4.9	6.0	5.0	Taney	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.6
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.1	3.4	4.2	3.0	Texas	7.0	7.7	7.5	8.1
Maries	3.3	5.3	5.2	3.8	Vernon	5.2	5.7	5.7	4.6
Phelps	3.1	3.0	4.0	2.8	Wayne	9.2	9.3	9.9	9.5
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.2	6.9	8.2	7.0	Worth	4.7	6.4	6.2	3.1
St. Francois	7.0	6.6	7.6	6.8	Wright	7.3	8.7	8.0	7.2
Washington	7.7	7.6	9.8	7.6					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS